



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE:
**NORTHWEST MISSOURI MAN SENTENCED
FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARM AFTER SHOOTING AT PARTY**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a northwest Missouri man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The sentence, Graves said, is the result of an investigation by the NITRO Task Force – the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation.

Douglas S. Armstrong, 32, address unknown, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to seven years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 21, 2003, **Armstrong** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Armstrong** admitted that he was in possession of a New England Firearms Company 20-gauge shotgun on Jan. 31, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Armstrong** has two 1989 criminal felony convictions for burglary, two 1989 criminal felony convictions for arson, and a 1990 criminal felony conviction for attempting to deliver a controlled substance in or about the premises of a county jail.

Armstrong was originally charged in a criminal complaint that was filed on Feb. 7, 2003. That criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 26, 2003, in Kansas City.

Armstrong and four other individuals went to a Polo, Mo., residence where there was a party occurring on Jan. 31, 2003. At that time, Graves said, **Armstrong** began yelling and threatening about 20 individuals who were at the party, then pulled a loaded shotgun from his jeans and pointed it at one of those individuals.

After a brief scuffle, **Armstrong** concealed the shotgun back in his jeans and continued to yell and threaten people at the party. **Armstrong** pulled the shotgun from his jeans again and discharged it into the ground. After the shotgun was fired, Graves said, one of the pellets from the discharge struck a woman who was transported to Liberty Hospital for treatment of her non-life-threatening injuries.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. The case was investigated by NITRO, the Caldwell County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow